Convocation at Grebel is a wonderful time filled with memories of past years, as well as hopes and dreams for the future. Reflections about lessons learned in class and long conversations about life with friends and faculty flood the minds of those who are graduating. Dreams include marriage, moving onto another college or university, travel, work, or an empty slate. As one graduate commented, “Who knows what the future may bring?”

Sixty-five undergraduates and twelve Master of Theological Studies graduates were a part of the 30th Convocation program celebrating their involvement in the PACS, Music, and residence programs here at Grebel on April 11, 2010.

Angela Hostetler was the undergraduate valedictorian and Mary Lou Klassen spoke on behalf of the Theological Studies graduates. Graduates are now looking forward to what the future will bring after their time spent here at Grebel.

President Henry Paetkau Concludes Term

President Henry Paetkau informed the Conrad Grebel University College Board at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 29th that he intends to conclude his term of service in June of 2011. President Paetkau began his service as President in January 2003, went through a Presidential review in late 2005, and was reappointed for a second term through June 2011.

In his letter to the Board Henry wrote that: “After considerable deliberation and discernment, I have decided to conclude my service as President of Conrad Grebel University College upon the completion of my current term on June 30, 2011. Over the years, I have come to know first hand the enormous opportunities, the ongoing challenges, and the significant and far-reaching impact of this institution not only as President but also as an alumnus, Board member, and parent. Grebel is an...continued on page 4
Undergrad Convocation Address

Angela Hostetler was chosen as the undergrad valedictorian.

“We come from so many different places, and we come for different reasons: some of us are music students, some are PACS students, some of us have lived in the Conrad Grebel residence, and some of us have associated. We may have come here because it’s where our classes are or because it’s where our meals are. In these ways we are a diverse group of students, and, looking around the room, you may have realized that you don’t recognize every graduating student here, though you probably do know a lot of people by name and even more by face.

Yet despite this unfamiliarity, this gathering is special. We are being honored today as students of Conrad Grebel University College. Something unifies us, and this something ties us to each other beyond our connection as students at the University of Waterloo. What brings us all together is a choice we made to live and study ‘across the creek’ as we often say. We made that choice knowing that the choices we make influence the people we become. We came to study here intentionally; we have lived intentionally. We have been influenced by the classes we’ve taken and the people we’ve met, and also in more subtle ways than can be imagined, or realized.”

MTS Convocation Address

Mary Lou Klassen spoke on behalf of the graduating MTS class of 2010.

"Why reflect on ‘God and God’s work in the world,’ at a Mennonite institution? Of our graduating class, only one of us is heading toward an academic career in theology and only one-quarter of us work directly in the church. We are not all Mennonite. In the public square, if God receives attention, God receives mixed reviews. The Christian church is looked at skeptically, even disparagingly. So why, indeed, would we want to enter a vocation that required the study of theology, or perhaps more strangely, study it for non-professional reasons? I will share with you my own.

A long time ago, St. Paul wrote to his protégé Timothy, encouraging him to ‘rightly explain the word of truth.’ James challenged his community to ‘be doers of the word and not merely hearers.’ It is the struggle for truth that compels just and peaceful action, as opposed to shoring up oppression and violence, that draws me to study theology.”

MTS Graduates 2010

Lisa Carr Pries focused her master’s degree on faith formation in the congregation. She is a pastor at Waterloo North Mennonite Church.

Kenneth Willard Cressman studied Bible and theology for personal interest and for teaching in his local congregation.

Katryn Margot Yvonne de Salaberry is interested in nurturing people in their spiritual practices, in serving in community ministry, and in exploring new ways of being the church.

Mary Lou Elaine Klassen is a staff member in the Peace and Conflict Studies program at Grebel. She was previously with Mennonite Central Committee in Canada, Nigeria, and Uganda.

Susanne Guenther Loewen plans to enter a doctoral program in theology at Toronto School of Theology, with the goal of becoming a professor of theology. Ray Martin is pastor at East Zorra Mennonite Church. He previously was pastor at Wellesley Mennonite Church.

Maureen Mary Ann Murphy is a coordinator with the John Howard Society. This grad program was an opportunity for personal growth and challenging accomplishments.

Campbell Nisbet has been Director of Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp & Retreat Centre for the past 24 years. He was formerly with Mennonite Central Committee in Winnipeg, Nigeria, Pennsylvania, and Labrador.

Marta Simpson plans to enter a Spiritual Care residency at St. Joseph’s Hospital, Hamilton in September 2010, with the intention to be a Spiritual Care Provider in a long term care or hospice setting.

Jan Evonne Steckley is presently pastor at Hillcrest Mennonite Church with special interest in spiritual formation in the congregation.

Rafael Vallejo is a chef by profession. Rafael is pursuing a career in theology and ministry with the Presbyterian Church. He is concurrently enrolled in a MDiv at Knox College, Toronto School of Theology.

Rudolf Wiens had a career as a space scientist at York University. This program was a rewarding retirement project that helped him to participate in the church’s grappling with modern problems.
Nick Driedger: A Natural Leader

Throughout his life and career, Nick has been a model of service and leadership. The Alumni Committee of Conrad Grebel University College was extremely pleased to present the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Service Award to Nick Driedger at the College’s Convocation on April 11.

Nick Driedger is retiring in 2010 after 17 years as CEO of the Mennonite Savings and Credit Union. Under his leadership, MSCU has doubled its membership, significantly increased its staff and the number of branches, increased the range of products, and quadrupled its assets. Nick was also instrumental in the establishment of the MSCU Charitable Fund and Meritas Mutual Funds. A recent study by the Queen’s University School of Business named MSCU among the top 50 small to medium sized employers in Canada.

Nick came to Conrad Grebel from a farm near Wheatley, ON in the fall of 1969. He embodied an enterprising spirit and showed outstanding leadership through such enterprises as; operating a pop machine in the stairwell helping to fund his education, being a part of a service trip to Columbia with other Mennonite colleges, he also helped organize a folk music group summer tour, and during Christmas break of 1969 he assisted in the clean up after Hurricane Camille.

Nick graduated from the University of Waterloo with a BA in Religious Studies after spending some years in the Engineering faculty. He also received a Masters in Education and worked for many years as a special education teacher in the Waterloo Public Board. He joined the Credit Union in 1983 as a loans officer and subsequently took on various roles prior to serving as CEO.

In reflection on his upcoming retirement, Nick observes that “most importantly we have worked hard to serve each of our members with integrity, compassion, and responsible stewardship.” These are also personal values for Nick as well as values that we celebrate and foster as Grebel alumni. He is a most deserving recipient of this award.

Nick Driedger (BA ’71) was introduced by Esther Etchells (BA ’67) from the Alumni Committee.
Henry Paetkau

in service to church and society. "Together, you are providing the leadership and resources needed to fulfill the College’s mission ‘to seek wisdom, nurture faith, and pursue justice and peace while creating both environmental and economic benefits, would you not be slightly interested?’” Jerry Enns (BA ’88) asks.

The answer should be yes. The world is looking to renewable sources of energy to replace the fossil fuels that we’ve become so dependant on. Solar energy is a viable option and Grebel alumni are heavily involved in its development.

The passing of the Ontario Green Energy Act in October 2009 has been instrumental for many alternative energy initiatives. Brian Iler lived at Grebel in the 60’s and played an instrumental role in lobbying for this act as a member of the Green Energy Act Alliance in 2008. Brian is also a member of the Toronto Renewable Energy Coop and the Community Power Fund. “When Brian Smitherman, who was then provincial Minister of the Environment, attended the conference we planned and saw what was happening in places like Germany, he was convinced that we needed to bring these ideas to Ontario,” noted Iler.

Another alumnus, Darren Kropf (BA ’07), is spearheading the Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario’s (MCCO) Mennonite Initiative for Solar Energy (MISE). The purpose of this program is to develop and provide resources for people and churches to adopt solar energy as an effective energy source. “MCCO is not an expert on solar technology, but we’re glad to connect people to those who are,” Darren commented.

One of the alternative energy supplier in this network is Vigor Clean Tech. Jerry Enns (BA ’88) and Dale Brubacher-Cressman (BASC ’87) partnered with others on Vigor Clean Tech, a company that installs photo voltaic solar collectors that track the sun, called Suntrackers. Jerry has installed a 10kW solar system on his house and has a live stream of data from the panels at http://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/public/systems/MY5W4378. A similar site with this information is provided to all customers of Vigor Clean Tech.

Another Grebelite, Derek Satnik (BASC ’02), is the managing partner at Mindscape Innovations Group in Kitchener, which specializes in environmentally and technologically enhanced homes, businesses, and communities. The Energyscape side of the business is involved in consulting on LEED certification, renewable energy, and sustainability.

Now Grebel students are keen to be a part of solar energy initiatives. Jonathan Van Egmond is in the Civil & Environmental Engineering program and is providing leadership for ‘Solar Grebel’ this summer. “Solar Thermal Technology addresses problems with current energy technology. A solar thermal system at Grebel would heat water without gathering and consuming non-renewable fuels, actions that have caused environmental damage and political tension. A team of students and staff has raised over $28,000 of the $30,000 goal so far, and our plan is to install a system by the end of this summer,” notes Jonathan.
Grebel 100 Takes Off!

Back in early January two Grebel students, Sarah Pries and Kim Bowman, spearheaded an initiative to get Grebel back into shape called Grebel 100. The numbers are in and everyone who participated completed the cross-Canada trek and almost made it back to Grebel with an astounding 6,503 miles!

The runners who became official members of Grebel 100 are: Alina Rehkopf, Andrew Pauls, Cheri Otterbein, Dan Johnson, Dayna Finke, Erik Streufert, Hannah Vickery, Heidi Friesen, Henry Paetkau, Jeremie Raimbault, Jessica Dyck, Jessica Reesor, Karsten Chen, Kathryn Heerema, Kevin Martin, Kim Bowman, Madeleine Bonsma, Mary Brubaker-Zehr, Meg Bauman, Melanie Goodfellow, Morgan Grainger, Ruth Wright-Gedcke, Sara Cressman, Sarah Penner, Sarah Pries, Steven Rempel, Suah Kim, Tomas Pollard, and Tyler Good.

“We would like to congratulate all of the other runners who participated,” Kim and Sarah commented.

Due to the overwhelming response, Sarah and Kim are planning to facilitate Grebel 100 again in the fall.

Dorothy E. Bechtel Award Established

“Mom always was ahead of her time,” observed Sandy Winfield in reflecting on her mother, Dorothy Bechtel’s many involvements over the course of her life. Her natural business sense, excellent organizational skills, and persuasive communication style made her a strong and effective leader on myriad committees and organizations across the province. At a time when women were not evident in leadership roles, the levels of responsibility and leadership which Dorothy undertook were often unprecedented, paving the way for more women to follow. Dorothy served on the Board of Governors at Conrad Grebel University College from 1981 to 1987 and was the first woman to take the role of Chair.

Although Dorothy passed away in April of 2009, it is hoped that her example of service and her legacy as a leader will live on. To this end, her family has established The Dorothy E. Bechtel Entrance Award providing $1,000 to a female student in her first year who demonstrates strong developing leadership skills and the motivation to serve. The Award is funded through an endowment that Dorothy established with the help of the Mennonite Foundation of Canada.

Dorothy’s family has strong connections to Grebel. Phyllis Jantzi, another daughter to Dorothy and mother of two Grebel alumni, is proud of her mother’s “pioneering spirit” and hopes the award will inspire more women to develop their leadership skills and set new precedents in serving others. Grandson Jacob Lichty is currently in the residence.

Mary Brubaker-Zehr, the director of student services at Grebel, said that it will be wonderful to support young women leaders in this way with the inaugural award this fall.

PACS Dialogue

Liberal Foreign Affairs critic, Bob Rae, fielded a variety of questions on Canada’s global presence after a public lecture at Grebel on April 23. These questions ranged from Afghanistan to Colombia to Iran and included topics related to refugees, human rights, Canadian mining company practices, pacifism, and the role of religion. At a separate lunch meeting, Rae heard from a variety of Mennonite related organizations that work overseas. The meetings were sponsored by PACS in response to a suggestion by alumnus Marcus Shantz, who introduced Rae.
Len Enns won’t forget the Tuesday when he checked the Juno website and saw his name listed among the nominees. “I feel terrific about it!” Len commented. The piece that he submitted was entitled “Nocturne” from the DaCapo Chamber Choir CD “Shadowlands” and was nominated for the “Classical Composition of the Year” at this year’s Juno awards.

“Hammer and Wind” (chamber music) and “NorthWord” (choral music). Various instruments are used for his music including but not limited to saxaphone, piano, organ, and vocals. “I’ve written for almost all acoustical instruments, including full orchestra, but much of my work has been for choir.”

Enns is often inspired by text, especially for choral pieces. The text Enns used for this piece is from Shakespeare’s Merchant of Venice, in which Lorenzo is describing the music of heaven to Jessica. “I tried to recreate, in the music, a moment of engaged, energized, near-magical reality; the closest picture of this is stars playing hide and seek with the curtains of northern lights on a prairie winter night.” Other inspirations also include the group he writes the piece for as he can then write according to their talents and abilities.

Enns is very thankful to everyone who has been a part in this accomplishment. He extends great thanks to the DaCapo Chamber Choir and Earl McCluskie (recording engineer) for the sound recording. “The jury never looks at the score, it’s all based on the recording. It wouldn’t have been a nomination without them.” Enns was very vocal about the importance of the choir to him saying, “It don’t mean a thing if it ain’t got that sing.” He also extends a general thanks to Conrad Grebel University College for their support in his work.

Enns and his wife attended the Julos in St. John’s Newfoundland on April 18th. Unfortunately, Len didn’t receive the Juno, but commented, “it was a strong affirmation of my work.”

‘Paraguay Primeval’ Premieres at Grebel

On March 3, Carol Ann Weaver premiered her ‘Paraguay Primeval’ at Grebel as a noon-hour concert. This multi-media event attracted 100 people which included students, staff, faculty and the public.

This tribute was inspired by Carol Ann’s trip to Mennonite world conference in Paraguay last year and pays tribute to Mennonites who left Russia for Paraguay due to persecution.

“It wasn’t until I got back (home) that I realized I had really been bitten by this story,” Carol Ann commented. “Then I just wanted to read everything I could about it.”

Most of the lyrics were taken from a book called “The Schoenbrunn Chronicles” which is an anthology of stories by Paraguayan Mennonites and was recently translated into English by Henry and Esther Regehr of Waterloo.

“The music attempts to catch the spirit of the text, allowing evocative percussion sounds to augment the other vocal/instrumental sounds and textures.”

Ann Snider Retires After 29 Years

“With people switching jobs so often, to spend 29 years in one institution shows an incredible amount of dedication to that workplace,” President Henry Paetkau told a room full of staff and faculty at Ann Snider’s retirement brunch.

This event was held to honour Ann’s hard work and devotion here at Grebel. Part of the program included a retrospective slide show and tributes from various people, including Ralph Lebold who was Ann’s first boss at Grebel.

Ann had finished two terms of missionary work in Zambia before coming to Grebel in 1981, and started working as a secretary to Ralph, who was the president at the time.

Though current students know Ann’s warm smile from Student Services, she worked in many aspects of Grebel over the years. “I have worked for two presidents, two interim presidents, two academic deans, the PACS office, recruitment office, front office, and of course for Student Services. I was imagining that if I stayed long enough I would venture into the kitchen, too.”

Away from work, Ann has always had a green thumb with a backyard that has more flowers, trees, and plants than grass. A farewell ceremony was held at a community supper in April where students presented Ann with a planter and an arrangement of different flowers. “Ann was a bloom of patience and I feel that strong friendships have been made that will continue in a different way as we bump into each other from time to time. May God bless each of you as this wonderful community continues to provide a unique life experience for so many. Thank you for giving me 29 wonderful years!”

- Ann Snider
Chris Beer (BSC ‘95) and Kim Bassett welcomed Charlotte Anne on Jan 25, 2010. A new baby sister for Thomas (7), Jeffrey (5) and Ainsley (3). Chris has just started a 6-month leave as a full-time dad at home, conveniently timed to coincide with the beautiful summer months.

Douglas Friesen (‘01) has moved to Edmonton and begun graduate school at the University of Alberta in Oncology. He is excited to be working on creating peaceful communities at the cellular level. He is also continuing the Grebel tradition of playing lots of Ultimate, as well as enjoying parkour, choral singing, and building empowering communities at International House, the residence he lives in.

Deb (Bechtel) (BA ‘89) and husband Cam Shapansky (BA ‘89) are currently living in Davis, California where they are opening a branch office of Blue North Strategies. They intend to return to their home in Cambridge with their children Gabbi and Reuben along with a few cases of wine.

Amie (Brubacher) McPhee (‘01) is living out in the booming metropolis of Wellesley, ON with her husband Chris and their two kids: Leah (3), and Ethan, born November 2009. Chris is a teacher at Sandhills Public School in Kitchener. Amie works at MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) in Waterloo.

Marion Desselkoen (‘95) recently participated in a medical mission trip with Youth Unlimited in the Dominican Republic. She volunteered as a translator to the medical team, who worked in the impoverished areas of the Dominican and provided medical treatment to the impoverished in Dominican as well as Haitian refugees. In addition to providing medical help, the team also distributed 2000+ Croc shoes to locals who did not have footwear, offered ministry, and visited “La Tienda” a fair trade art co-op that employs local Dominican women allowing them to provide for their families (http://latienda.ca). Marion currently lives in Toronto and can be reached at mdesselkoen@rogers.com.

Congratulations to Dr. Sami Fereig, a graduate of the Certificate Program in Conflict Management & Mediation, as well as a trainer in the Conflict and Dispute Management for Project Managers stream. Dr. Fereig was recently elected to Fellow status with the American Society of Civil Engineers. This honour is awarded to those demonstrating significant accomplishments and professional distinction in the industry.

Dr. Janice Giesbrecht (BMATH ’77) is heading up the Niagara Health System’s new cancer department in the new Walker Family Cancer Centre in St. Catharines. Janice has been a medical oncologist for the past 20 years and was a key figure in opening Niagara’s first breast cancer screening clinic in 1992. Her responsibilities now include overseeing expansion of the new cancer-care services for Niagara along with providing clinical leadership.

Willard Metzger (MTS ’94) has been appointed the post of General Secretary for Mennonite Church Canada. He will succeed outgoing General Secretary Robert (Jack) Suderman, who served in the post since 2005 and will retire this summer. Willard is the outgoing chair of Mennonite Church Canada’s Witness Council, the mission and outreach ministry of the national church. He served in that position for nine years. Metzger has also been a pastor in Mennonite congregations for eighteen years, and most recently was Director of Church Relations for World Vision Canada.

Kristie Vermulen Awad (BSC ‘01) graduated with her Masters from Yale University. She and her husband Karim Awad (BA ‘00) are living in New Haven, Connecticut.

Keep us in the Loop!
Tell us about vocational changes, general updates, retirement adventures, births, marriages and deaths. Send your name, year graduated, address, mail, photo, and news to Karl Juhlke at grebelnow@uwwaterloo.ca. Please note that Grebel Now is posted on the website and is searchable.
Certificate Program in Conflict Management

Are those "pinches" becoming "crunches"? Is your new supervisory role creating challenges? Are changes at your church creating some disagreement?

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Grebel Review
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2008 (Marlene Epp)
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Calendar of Events

August 8-20, 2010
Conrad Grebel University College
Ontario Mennonite Music Camp

Thursday, August 26, 2010
7:30 pm, St. Jacob's Church Theatre
5 on the Floor Concert
$50 per ticket ($30 tax receivable)

Saturday, September 26, 2010
2:00-4:00 pm, Conrad Grebel
1995-2000 Era Alumni Reunion
$50 per ticket ($30 tax receivable)

Wednesday, October 6, 2010
5:00 pm, Waterloo Region Museum
University Colleges’ Alumni Reception
$10 per ticket

University College Alumni Reception

Join Alumni of the Colleges at the University of Waterloo for a special reception at the new Waterloo Region Museum on Wednesday, October 6.

5:00 pm - Reception followed by a presentation featuring architect Brain Rudy (BES ’89, BARCH ’93) and education coordinator David Neufeld (BA ’78, MA ’82)

Tickets are $10. Please register at uWaterloo’s alumni page:
alumni.uwaterloo.ca/alumni/events/

Keep a look out for...

Grebel's 50th Anniversary

Ontario Mennonite Music Camp
August 8-20, 2010

OMMC is an amazing place for 12-16 year olds to get together to sing & play at Conrad Grebel University College.
grebel.uwaterloo.ca/ommc

facebook

Become friends with Conrad Grebel UC to see videos, pictures from past years and reunions, tag your friends, and get brief communication from Meg Bauman, Karl Juhlke, and Fred W. Martin via status updates. There is also a general Conrad Grebel University College group you can join, or become a fan of Grebel.

grebel.uwaterloo.ca/aboutgrebel/events.shtml

Alumni Reunion

for 1995-2000

Come out on Saturday, September 25th for an afternoon Patio Party! Beginning at 2:00 pm, we welcome all ages and life stages to an event that promises to have something for everyone! See you there! Planners include Karen Kendel, Emily Jaarsma, Kendra Whitfield Ellis.

For more information, email peter_and_kendra@hotmail.com or fwmartin@uwaterloo.ca or visit grebel.uwaterloo.ca/alumni-reunion.

Patio Party

$10 per person
$25 per family